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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 22 JAN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 8334
E.O. 12065:GDS 11/30/86 (GETTINGER, H. CARL) OR-P
TAGS: ASEC PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJECT: (U) VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW: NOVEMBER 22-28
1. (C) SUMMARY: AMONG THE 179 VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE THIS WEEK WERE SIX OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT. THE SIX WERE KILLED IN THE USUAL FASHION: KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP OF ARMED MEN WHO APPEARED AS CIVILIANS, TAKEN AWAY IN THE UBIQUITOUS PICK-UP TRUCKS, SHOT OR STRANGLED OR BOTH, AND THEN DUMPED ALONG ROADSIDES. HUNDREDS OF OTHER DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED IN EXACTLY THE SAME MANNER. THE DEATHS OF THESE SIX MEN ARE USUSUAL IN THAT THEY HAVE GONE NOTICED. BUT, DESPITE THE FUROR THAT THESE KILLINGS HAVE PROVOKED, THERE HAS BEEN ALMOST NO PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF IT. SINCE THE THURSDAY KIDNAPPING THIS CITY HAS BEEN STRANGELY QUIET. THE CENTRAL CATHEDRAL HAS BEEN THE FOCUS
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OF THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS OCCURRED; IT WAS TAKEN OVER BETWEEN THURSDAY EVENING AND FRIDAY MORNING AND THEN BOMBED ON FRIDAY EVENING. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE BODIES OF THREE OF THE DEAD FDR LEADERS--THOSE OF CHACON, HERNANDEZ AND FRANCO--WERE IN THE CATHEDRAL YESTERDAY, NOVEMBER 29, BUT ARE NOT THERE TODAY. THOSE HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH THE BODIES OF THE OTHER THREE MEN. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS MACABRE APPEARANCE AND DISAPPEARANCE IS DUE TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE FUNERAL TO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3. THERE ARE OBVIOUS FUNERARY REQUIREMENTS THAT THAT POSTPONEMENT ENTAILS.
2. (C) DEATHS: THERE WERE AT LEAST 179 NEW VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE THIS WEEK IN EL SALVADOR. ONCE AGAIN WE COULD NOT IDENTIFY--EVEN IN GENERAL TERMS--THE KILLERS OF A LARGE MAJORITY

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OF THOSE PEOPLE--114. HOWEVER, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT AT LEAST FORTY-THREE WERE KILLED BY THE MILITARY OR SECURITY FORCES, FIFTEEN BY LEFTISTS, AND SEVEN BY RIGHTIST TERRORIST SQUADS.

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3. INCIDENTS:
--ON 11/22 FOUR MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT OF THE LEFTIST GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS, THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE (ERP), WERE KILLED DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH A MILITARY PATROL NEAR CANTON AGUA BLANCA (LA UNION).
--ON OR ABOUT 11/22 A GROUP OF ABOUT FIFTY GUERRILLAS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE RAIDED CANTON EL CERRON (CHALATENANGO). THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY RANSACKED SEVERAL HOUSES BEFORE SETTING FIRE TO THEM.
--ON OR ABOUT 11/22GUERRILLAS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SET FIRE TO THE CASERIO EL ARROZALITO NEAR CANTON HUANACASTE (CHALATENANGO).
--ON 11/23 THE CHIEF OF ANTEL (THE STATE TELEPHONE ENTERPRISE)
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FOR SANTA ANA WAS INJURED WHEN GUERRILLAS MACHINE GUNNED HIS CAR NEAR COLON (LA LIBERTAD).
--ON 11/23 A BOMB SERIOUSLY DAMAGED A PHILIPS DISTRIBUTORSHIP IN SAN SALVADOR.
--ON 11/23 A GROUP OF REPORTEDLY HEAVILY ARMED GUERRILLAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED TWO INCAFE COFFEE PROCESSING INSTALLATIONS IN VERAPAZ AND GUADALUPE (SAN VICENTE) AND DESTROYED A LARGE AMOUNT OF COFFEE.
--ON OR ABOUT 11/23 A LARGE GROUP OF GUERRILLAS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE OVER THE TOWN OF SAN BARTOLOME PERULAPIA (CUSCATLAN) BUT WERE REPORTEDLY REPELLED BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY CORPS. THE ATTACK RESULTED IN SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE TOWN AND A POSSIBLY LARGE BUT AS YET UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF CASUALTIES.
--ON 11/24 AT LEAST EIGHTEEN ERP MEMBERS WERE KILLED BY TROOPS WHO RAIDED A GUERRILLA SAFEHOUSE IN AYUTUXTEPEQUE (A POOR SUBURB LOCATED IN THE NORTH SECTION OF GREATER SAN SALVADOR). ONE REPORT SPECULATED THAT AMONG THE VICTIMS THERE MIGHT BE SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL ERP LEADERS. THE RAIDING PARTY UNCOVERED A LARGE AMOUNT OF WEAPONRY INCLUDING GALIL AND UZI SUBMACHINE GUNS; FAL, G-3, AND M-16 RIFLES; TWELVE GUAGE SHOTGUNS; AND SEVERAL LAND MINES. IN ADDITION, ERP DOCUMENTS OUTLINING THE ORGANIZATION, ITS STRATEGY AND TACTICS WERE REPORTED TO ALSO HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.
--ON 11/24 AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND SEVEN INJURED IN A CONFRONTATION NEAR THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING COMPLEX IN SAN SALVADOR. NEWS REPORTS INDICATED THAT TWO CUSTOMS POLICE WERE KILLED WHEN GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE TRUCK IN WHICH THEY WERE RIDING. THE SURVIVING POLICE APPARENTLY REACTED BY MACHINE GUNNING A PASSING BUS, KILLING TWO OF ITS OCCUPANTS AND INJURING SEVERAL OTHERS.
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--ON 11/24 AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED DURING A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN A SAN SALVADOR SHANTYTOWN NAMED "EL PARAISO." REPORTS INDICATED THAT RESIDENTS OF ONE SHANTY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE PASSING TROOPS BY FIRING ON THEM AND THUS PROVOKING THEM TO RAID THE HOUSE. THE TROOPS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE UNCOVERED A SIZEABLE ARMS CACHE.
--ON OR ABOUT 11/24 SEVERAL POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (FPL) MEMBERS MOMENTARILY TOOK OVER A SAN VICENTE RADIO STATION BUT FLED WHEN TROOPS APPEARED ON THE SCENE.
--ON 11/25 SIX OF A GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE GUERRILLAS WERE REPORTED KILLED DURING AN ENCOUNTER WITH NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS AT A LOCATION BETWEEN TEJUTEPEQUE AND JUTIAPA (CABANAS).
--ON 11/25 A BOMB EXPLOSION SERIOUSLY DAMAGE THE COJUTEPEQUE (CUSCATLAN) MUNICIPAL BUILDING, NEIGHBORING HOUSES AND A CHURCH CLOCK.
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--ON 11/25 A GROUP ENTERED THE OFFICE OF THE SALVADORAN TOURISM INSTITUTE IN SAN SALVADOR WITH THE INTENTION OF ROBBING IT; THE GROUP LEFT AFTER FINDING AN EMPTY CASH BOX.
--ON OR ABOUT 11/25 AN ELECTRICAL TOWER WAS DYNAMITED NEAR ACAJUTLA (SONSONATE).
--ON OR ABOUT 11/25 ANOTHER ELECTRICAL TOWER BOMBING OCCURRED NEAR SANTIAGO DE MARIA (USULUTAN). FMLN (FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT) LEAFLETS WERE FOUND AT THE SITE.
--ON 11/26 IN SANTIAGO NONUALCO (LA PAZ) THE MUNICIPAL POLICE DIRECTOR, TWO POLICE AGENTS, AND A FOURTH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE WERE FOUND NAPPING BY A GROUP WHICH KIDNAPPED THEM AND STOLE SEVERALHKEAPONS AND UNIFORMS.

--ON 11/26 A BOMB EXPLOSION DESTROYED AN ANTEL TELEPHONE INSTALLATION IN SANTA TECLA (LA LIBERTAD).
--ON 11/27 AT MIDDAY A GROUP OF ABOUT TWENTY ARMED MEN ENTERED THE EXTERNADO SAN JOSE, A JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL, AND CAPTURED SIX LEADERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FDR) WHO WERE MEETING THERE. THOSE CAPTURED WERE: ENRIQUE ALVAREZ CORDOVA, MANUEL FRANCO, JUAN CHACON, DROTEO HERNANDEZ, ENRIQUE BARRERA, AND HUMBERTO MENDOZA. THE BODIES OF ALL SIX MEN WERE FOUND EITHER THAT EVENING OR THE FOLLOWING MORNING; ALL HAD BEEN EITHER STRANGLED, SHOT OR BOTH. A RIGHTIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, THE GENERAL MAXIMILIANO HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ BRIGADE, CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDERS.
--ON 11/27 NEWSPAPERS INDICATED THAT ONE OR TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY A SMALL AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING ARMS FOR GUERRILLAS HAD CRASH LANDED AT A LOCATIION BETWEEN ZACATECOLUCA (LA PAZ) AND TECOLUCA (SAN VICENTE). THE DISPOSITION OF THE WEAPONS AND THE FATE OF THE CREW WAS LEFT UNCLEAR. ONE REPORT INDICATED THAT THE CREW WAS PICKED UP BY A SECOND AIRCRAFT AFTER THE ARMS ABOARD BOTH PLANES WERE DELIVERED TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENTS.
--ON 11/27 A GROUP OF TEN ARMED MEN SET FIRE TO AN INCAFE INSTALLATION NEAR IZALCO (SONSONATE).
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--ON 11/28 A POWERFUL BOMB APPARENTLY PLACED INSIDE A VEHICLE EXPLODED IN FRONT OF SAN SALVADOR'S METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL. THE EXPLOSION INJURED SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO WERE AMONG THOSE WHO TOOK OVER THE CHURCH IN PROTEST OVER THE KILLINGS OF THE SIX FDR LEADERS. PART OF THE STRUCTURE WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY THE EXPLOSION AND THE ENSUING FIRE.
4. WEEKEND UPDATE: THIS WEEKEND HAS APPARENTLY PASSED QUIETLY. THE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE AS OF 7:00 P.M. ON SUNDAY ARE THE BURNINGS OF SEVERAL BUSES EARLY ON SATURDAY MORNING AND A SHOOTING ENGAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF SAN SALVADOR ON SATURDAY EVENING IN WHICH--ONE LISTNER CLAIMED--A BAZOCKA-LIKE WEAPON WAS USED. ALSO, THIS MORNING THERE WAS SHOOTING IN THE AREA OF--BUT NOT DIRECTED AT--THE EMBASSY.
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